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### AN AWAKENING.

BY PAUL DANBY.

[Copyright, 1897.1 It was the building of the Juniata Slatertown & Mercerville railroad that woke up Hank Black, but it was a few words said by a girl that he thought a good deal of at that time that first disturbed his sleep, so to speak. I happened to be in Graham's store, over in Slatertown, when Hank was disturbed, and I heard the disturb-

ing 'words. It was one Saturday night in August some 12 years ago, Graham's store was crowded, inside and out. There must have been 40 or 50 in the store in front of the counters and twice as many on the sidewalk, waiting their turn to go in and buy. Behind the counters, besides Hank Black, Graham himself was working away in his shirtsleeves, Mrs. Graham was helping the best she could, and then there was Lucetta Allen, Mrs. Graham's unmarried sister.

It was close that night outsideseemed as if the heat from the sunshine of a mighty hot midsummer day had kind of got tangled up in the air likeand inside 'twas worse, for there was balf a dozen kerosene lamps burning and the room was full of smoke from cheap cigars and clay pipes. Inside and out everybody was talking, mostly about nothing at all, as folks do when they go to the store, and Lucetta was pouring out some aniline dye while Hank was tying up sugar. I was standing by the counter, close to Hank and Lucetta, when she said, suddenly:

"There he is, Hank; and he is somebody. He can do things. You'd best look hard at him and see a man for once in your life."

into the sugar barrel, and I got so interested in the mixup that I only got a glimpse of the chap the girl referred to. He didn't look to be much of a man to Tae, and I should never have given him a second thought, only for what I'd beard Lucetta say, though he did look different from the Slatertown young men. He was one of the civil engineers that was laying out the new railroad. Hank was so busy then that he didn't find out much about the chap till the next day, and then Lucetta told him.

Like most young fellows in Slatertown, Hank had a spry young horse and a buggy. Every Sunday afternoon he used to take Lucetta out in the buggy, and the next day he took ber out as usual. Now, it so happened that this was the day he had fixed on to say something very particular to the young woman, and they hadn't gone very far before he said it. I don't know the language he used, but it amounted to asking her to marry him, though he took an awful long time to do it, and Lucetta, who was bound not to say a word till he had finished, thought he'd never stop. I know pretty nearly what she said to him, for she told me that very night, she being my cousin, and I being something like an older brother

"I just turned and looked at him a little while, Cousin Jim, and then I told him something.

"'Hank Black,' I said, 'you ought to be ashamed of yourself. You want to wake up before you ask any girl to marry you.

"Hank seemed a good deal surprised,

and then I said, further: "'You think you are dong well because you're clerk in Graham's store, the biggest in Slatertown, and the whole valley, for that matter, and you feel sort of rich because you've got a horse and buggy and a little money in the savings bank and your wages have been raised from \$300 a year to \$26 a month. All that seems worth while to you. But that young chap that came into the store last night earns almost as much in a month as you do in a year, and he isn't any brighter than you, either. He's awake, though, He is a man in the world. But you-you are asleep. You are like a beetle in its hole.

"When I got that far," the girl continued, "Hank braced up long enough to ask me if I thought the young engineer better looking or better natured than he was. But I wouldn't gratify him by telling him what I thought on those points, and I didn't say much more about anything. If I had I'd have eried, so I just asked him to drive home: and he did, without ever speaking a word."

When Lucetta had finished telling me about her talk with Hank I asked her to explain herself. But she made no explanation. She just turned a pair of big, blazing eyes on me, and said if I wanted to make out that I was as stupid as Hank I might try it, but she knew better.

had "enough elerking it in his," and advised Graham to find another man right away. Then Hank did what I thought was the dumbest thing he was drenched, and he was wondering where ever guilty of. He never said good-by to Lucetta, but he went and hunted up and buggy coming on the other side that engineer and asked him if he didn't want to hire a chainman.

The engineer looked Hank over and asked him if his horse and buggy would go with him. Hank said it cetta. He saw the horse was coming would, and was hired on the spot. That across the bridge and he braced himjob lasted Hank most a year, during self to stop the runaway, but before which he worked like a slave for two the bridge was crossed the horse shied going to pass the summer with my wife dollars a day, dragging chain and do- suddenly and jumped right into that and me, and we're going to see if we ing all sorts of odd jobs for the engi- roaring torrent of muddy water. You neer, hauling him around in the buggy, know there was no rail to the short carrying a certain piece of foolishness mister. I just tell you there ain't no and actually lending his rig for the ca- bridge. Then Hank showed that he too far. gineer to take Lucetta driving. But never once did Hank himself speak or of a little flood whether he was somebow to her again. He didn't even let an | body or not. that he knew there was such a girl. There wasn't half a chance in a largest ever made. After shearing it and once, when I thought, like a fool, thousand for him to save her, and he'd measures 76 feet 8 inches by 5 feet, and

the only Lucetta Allen he'd ever known | Quicker than I can tell you, he had cut was dead, and I wished I hadn't opened | the laces of his shoes, kicked them off.

When the engineer told the young | yellow water, and was swimming for man he had no further use for him the girl. The buggy hadn't been upset, Hank broke all up. It was only for a for a wonder, and she sat on the seat. minute, though, and then he asked the clinching the reins tight in her hands engineer why he couldn't take him along to his next job to make an engi- face as white as a ghost and actually eer of him.

headed young cub? No one could do ing. that. You're a good hand to lug chains and drive a buggy horse, but time isn't

long enough to educate you." I'd got acquainted with the engineer long before that. He wasn't a bad it tickled him a lot.

he's no relation to Lucetta Allen.

he did want to show her that he could tom. amount to something. He had sold his horse and buggy, and he had \$250 altogether, or thereabouts. He didn't know how much education he could get up, and if it took more money would I enough, being an engineer, to pay up?

I told him to come again a week later, town and talked with Lucetta. She he could write to me and I wouldn't see cetta to Graham's. him fail for the lack of a few dollars.

as she floated down the stream, her scared out of her senses, her eyes look-"Make an engineer of you, you thick- ing straight ahead, but seeing noth-

The force of the current was a good deal stronger than Hank thought it was, and it rolled and tumbled him over and over a hundred times, it seemed to him, before he got to the sort of chap, but he kind of looked buggy. He finally reached it all right, down on folks that hadn't as much edu- however, and not knowing what else cation as he had. He told me about to do, climbed up on the seat beside Hank's wanting to be an engineer, and of Lucetta. Just then the horse that had made all the mischief began to I began to see how the land lay, and struggle, and in a moment the buggy I was going to hunt Hank up again, went over and threw them into the when one day he came into the post water. Hank remembers that just beoffice here and said he wanted to talk fore the buggy upset he heard a frightwith me all alone. Hank's a distant ful crash up-stream, and surmised that cousin of mine, too, you know, though the bridge had been carried away, as indeed it had; and that was what Well, Hank made a clean breast of caused Hank most of the trouble that all his feelings to me. He said he'd was to come. The buggy must have found out that to be somebody he'd floated down stream much slower than got to have an education. And he'd the current was running, and that was got to be somebody just to spite Lu- natural enough, seeing that it was pretcetta, if for not other reason. He didn't ty heavy and the wheels reached down want to marry her, as he had once, but so far, probably, as to drag on the bot-

Anyway, the pieces of the broken the buggy, so that just as the young cluding many factory laborers, live in chap had got to swimming strong for this region. Its death date is 40 per for that, but he was going to use it all the shore, a piece of lumber hit him and knocked both of them clean under The county council is engaged in the lend him some till he could earn the water. Hank told me afterward that he was as clear-headed as ever he was in his life while he was under water, ishing the crooked, narrow lanes and and then I drove over the hills to Slater- and he remembers perfectly how he came to the surface with Lucetta on his begged of me to help Hank, and insist- arm. After that he doesn't know what the approach. It will run into a large ed on giving me \$100 of her own money, he did, but in some way he got to which I was to let him have without shore and took Lucetta with him. Then telling him where it came from. I just he fainted away with the pain, for the had to take it, but I didn't let Hank have beam that had struck him had broken from the earth excavated from foundait. I banked it in her name, and then his left arm. By that time Lucetta had tions. Hank turned quick and upset the dye I told Hank to go ahead and go to school. gained her senses, and she called for He must earn as much as he could, but if help till some one came and took them his earnings and his savings fell short both away, Hank to my house and Lu-

Well, he had a hard time of it. When but they weren't. Neither would hear

PLUNGED INTO THE MUDDY WATER.

he got to the polytechnic institute, to seeing the other, and when his arm where they turn out engineers in "as- was well it was time for Hank to go sorted lots," he found that he couldn't back to school. That fall Lucetta startget into the school till he had done a ed out to get an education, too. lot of preliminary studying; had to go of things he'd never even heard the he did save my life, I propose to be Big Outlay on a Trip Across the Connames of. But he settled down to his his equal and more if I can." work like a good fellow and wrote to me regular. After he'd been a year in and so not yet 20, and, being bright the preparatory school, where he was and quick, she got on very fast at school, the oldest of the lot, being past 21, he | the same as Hank did. was ready to take the polytechnic examinations all right, and he went through the polytechnic in a year less had been connected with his present through with colors flying. The pro- than the regular time, and was sent line of business. Perhaps the most infessors told me he had done more study- | right away to South America to lay ing and gone faster than anyone they'd out railroads and build bridges there. ever had in the school before. But it It was queer enough, after he had been young man, who appeared to be in most killed him. It took all the red there a couple of years, that this same out of his face; it made his hands white, engineer that had made him all the and the muscles in his arms soft, and !trouble at first was put on his staff in

here he saw Lucetta again. if it hadn't been for the big storm that came up sudden one day in July. Both he and the girl had declared they wouldn't meet for worlds, and thought best to humor them, particukerly as my wife agreed with me that I'd better. Hank was out fishing that day, and it happened that he was under the short bridge not far from Slatertown when the storm came up, Maybe you remember it. Anyway, it was the worst storm we ever had here. It was something like a western cloudhail, and the water came down in bar-Next day Hank quit. He said he'd relsful-not drops. It wasn't half an hour before the creek was so full that Hank had to get out from under his shelter in a hurry. In no time he was to find cover when he saw a horse of the stream, as if the evil one was in pursuit, straight for the bridge. One glance showed him it was a runaway, and another that the driver was Lu-

that, I could straighten things out by have known it if he'd ever stopped to is six-tenths of an inch thick; it is with- feller the choice of hangin' or shootin'."

had plenty of nerve, and wasn't afraid

"Hank will be somebody, sure enough, through a preparatory school or acad- Cousin Jim," she said, "and, though I emy and find out about the whole parcel | never want to see him again, even if

She was two years younger than he,

Well, to cut it short, Hank got der his observation during the time he I was afraid he was going to die. So a subordinate position, but so it was, got him to come here for vacation, and and Hank has told me two or three times in his letters that the fellow ac- linary request almost took the breath | 10 cent roreign exchange, green, He wouldn't have seen her, though, cepted the situation like a gentleman, out of the agent and it was a moment \$1 Manifest, imperforate .. though it did seem to gall him a little

Lucetta finished her schooling with colors flying, too. I had to lend her a little money to help her through, besides returning her own that she tried to let Hank have, but she's paid me back all right from the sale of he books. You see, she found out at school that she could write for print, and she's doing pretty well now. I don't think Hank knows about that, for he forbade me to write to him about Lucetta. You see, I'm the only correburst, I guess. There was plenty of spondent he has from here, and Lin cetta has always written over the name of "Mrs. Margate," so that he

shouldn't know. No; they haven't seen each other since the big storm when he saved her from drowning. He is past 30 now, and she's 28 and both are still single. There was stories that he had married a "senorita" of the country he is in, but he says it isn't so; and Lucetta has said

"no" to half a dozen. Do I think they'll ever meet again? Yes, I do, and right here in this post office, too, next summer. Hank is coming back to the states, and Lucetta is can't keep two folks we know of, from

Largest Steel Plate.

A steel plate has just been turned out by an English firm that is said to be the taking to him about her, he said that think, which I don't suppose he did. out a flaw and weighs 51/4 tons.

HOUSING THE LONDON POOR. and jumped into that awful stream of Slum Localities Giving Place to Healthful Tenements.

Americans must turn to Europe if they wish to study the reforms connected with the government to provide better homes for those who can pay but little rent. Of course, the benefits to be gained from more comfortable and healthful tenements for the poor are confined to any one class of the community. The evils of unsuitable and unsanitary surroundings, of disease, dirt and extreme poverty, fall upon a whole city or neighborhood. The entire population may repoice to see an old rookery swept away to make room for something more wholesome and comfortable, and to let in the purifying sun and air. When some filthy old shell goes down, where misery has been familiar for many years and crime has lurked in its shadow, even a Gradgrind ought to be able to count the economic gains though not concerned about the moral advantages.

The London county council, in cooperation with the local boards of administration of the parishes, is giving more attention to this subject than ever before. Within the last few years important streets have been opened throughout slum localities, a double gain, it will be noticed, for the inhabitants of the crowded city. One of the leading improvements now in hand is in the slum district, 15 acres in extent around the group of railway stations in bridge came down enough faster than Shoreditch. Six thousand people, in-1,000-more than double the average. work, to occupy two years, of clearing away the noisome tenements and abolcourts. A fine, new street, 60 feet wide, lined with shops and tenements, will be central park, from which seven 50-foot streets will radiate. A mound for band stand in the park will be made In this improvement no less than 730

wretched houses, occupied by 5,700 people, have been cleared away. The tenants thus dispossessed have been pro-I thought they'd be reconciled then, vided with homes in neat cottages conveniently located, under the direct su pervision of the London officials. A tenant now pays for a new two or three foom flat from \$1.25 to \$2.50 a week, and for a four-room flat, with an outlook on the mound, three dollars a week One rule enforced by the council that rents shall not exceed the old average collected in the rookeries, and the officials expect that the new order of things will pay steam laundry, to be used by families in common on the payment of a small fee. The laundry building has two large rooms to afford pleasant quarters to a workingmen's club. On the area to be rebuilt sanitary dwellings will be erected to accommodate 4,700 persons.

The net cost of clearing this large slum district and preparing the site anew is \$1,400,000. About \$1,300,000 additional will be expended on the new dwellings. In 60 years the council expects to have paid off all the debt incurred in the undertaking and to be the free owner of the whole area, without calling on taxpayers for any of the money used in rebuilding. Some of the private philanthropists of London are active in a similar line of reform, one of them having lately erected a large lodging-house for men in needy cir comstances. But only a municipality can handle the slum problem in a large way, and what London has already accomplished deserves general attention, -St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### COSTLY TRAVELING.

tinent. One of Boston's well-known tourist agents was in a reminiscent mood the other day and related a number of remarkable incidents that had come unteresting one related to a visit he had not long ago from a comparatively great hurry. He rushed into the office of the agency and without ado inquired the cost of a private palace coach to southern California and back. The suddenness of this somewhat extraoror two before he collected himself to "All for yourself?" inquired the

"Yes, all for myself," with an air of

"I can't give you the exact figures. but I should say between \$15,000 and

"That's all right. I shall want it ext Thursday morning fully equipped or the long journey."

"What name, please?" The young man passed the agent his ard and without further question the argain was consummated.

A month afterward the agent recived a check from his affluent customr for \$18,000, with an accompanying note to the effect that the trip had been greatly enjoyed and that the price was very way satisfactory.

"You see," continued the agent, "that ecasionally we get a windfall and that our wealthy people are bound to get the best that's going at whatever cost."-Boston Herald.

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90 Foreign Exchange, maroon..... 3 50 Inland Exchange, imperforate..... 5 00 5 00 Probate of Will, imperforate ..... 20 00 Probate of Will, imperforate ... 30 Blue and Black 1 60 Sine and Black 5 cent Black and Green, proprietary, '5 cents 6 cent Black and Green, proprietary.. v cents 10 cent Black and Green, proprietary. . 5 Ocent Black a d Green, proprietary.. 3 6 00 Black and Green, proprietary ..... 5 00 5 00 Black and Green, proprietary ...... 15 00 lalso wish to buy old canceled postage

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